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FBIS 079

CHEYSSON QUESTIONS CONTINUING FRENCH MILITARY PRESENCE IN LEBANON

LD231618 PARIS DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH 1600 GMT 23 OCT 83

(TEXT) FRENCH EXTERNAL RELATIONS MINISTER CLAUDE CHEYSSON, WHO IS IN ATHENS, CONDEMNED THE OUTRAGES IN BEIRUT BUT HE ALSO PUT A QUESTION MARK ON THE FUTURE OF THE FRENCH CONTINGENT IN LEBANON. FRANCE, HE SAID, IS NOT ACCUSTOMED TO GIVING IN TO PRESSURE BUT WE MUST ASK OURSELVES THE QUESTION WHETHER THE MILITARY ROLE OF OUR FORCE THERE IS REALLY NECESSARY. FOR HIS PART, ARCHBISHOP OF PARIS MONSIGNOR LUSTIGER SAYS THAT THE SHOCK TO WHICH FRENCH PUBLIC OPINION HAS BEEN SUBJECTED MUST NOT LEAD TO A COWARDLY ABANDONMENT OF THE PEACE OBJECTIVES.

23 OCT 1633Z NB